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706.002PA**Remarks:**

Claims 1 to 8, as amended, plus new Claims 9 to 12, are presented for reconsideration.

The Specification has been amended to effect grammatical corrections, and to insert specific introduction for the housing 31 of the control module 30, which is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and the housing of the module was already disclosed at page 10, lines 6-7. Fig. 3 is proposed to be corrected to add Reference No. 31.

The new Claims 9 to 12 find support in the Specification. Claim 9 finds support, e.g., at page 9, lines 12 to 15. Claim 10 finds support at page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 10, and Page 10, lines 1 to 14. Claim 11 finds support at page 8, lines 10 to 14. Claim 12 finds support at Page 6, lines 3 to 7. Claims 1, 5, and 6 as now presented avoid the formal infirmities and objections as stated in paragraphs 1 to 4 of the Official Action.

The Examiner, Mr. Lambrecht, and Supervisory Examiner Grant are thanked for the courtesies shown in granting a telephonic interview, held with the undersigned on April 5, 2005. At the interview, the objects and purposes of the present invention were discussed, as were the contents of the cited prior art references, and the subject matter of proposed amendments to the main independent Claim. The Claims herein presented are consistent with the ones discussed at that time.

Claim 1 and dependent Claims 5 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being allegedly obvious and unpatentable over Li et al. Pub. US 2003/0097661, in view of *Broadcast.com Sports Channel*, *College Sports Channel*, and *Arkansas College Baseball Schedule*. Claims 2, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being allegedly obvious and unpatentable over Li and Broadcast.com, and further in view of Whitley et al. Pub. US 2001/0034734.

Applicant urges that Claim 1, as amended, together with its dependent claims 2 to 12, overcomes any rejection based on these references.

Claim 1 now clearly recites that the process of video production of events, e.g.,

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college or high school wrestling meets, swim meets, or even club frisbee contests, involves self-help, that is, the production is carried out by any available students or athletic department personnel, and does not require a high-cost, heavily equipment-intensive professional production of the type that is carried out by a crew from a commercial television broadcast or cablecast station.

By employing the techniques disclosed and claimed here, a non-professional crew formed of student athletes, for example, can operate the simple arrangements of video camera(s), microphone(s), video recording equipment (VHS or digital), and the control module 30, as well as provide commentary concerning the meet or game. Then with the event having been captured on a suitable recording medium, the medium is simply sent to the central clearing house 10, where the video and audio channels are converted into a suitable digital form to be transmitted over the Internet, and these are stored and indexed or cataloged. A subscriber, or numerous subscribers, wanting to see this meet or game can reach the web site hosted by the clearing house, where the subscriber can select the particular event, i.e., by college, sport, and date. The digitally formatted signals are then sent to the subscriber(s), who view and listen to the meet or game.

Because the costs involved in producing and webcasting these athletic meets and games are so much smaller than the costs associated with a typical video broadcast, this invention makes it possible for the so-called minor sports at any scholastic or other institution to provide the games and meets to its alumni, student body, and anyone else.

In the claims, the term "self-help" means that the persons involved in the production can be persons without any experience in video journalism, and do not need any special training to operate the control module, recorder, cameras or microphones. This opens the door for members of the team or club to attend to the video production entirely on their own. The video module 30, with its simple arrangement of twin screens 32, 34, toggle 60 for selecting back and forth between the two cameras for recording, and the slide audio controls 62 permit the student-athlete operator to run the video production

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of the event after only a few minutes of familiarization, and without formal training. The term "do-it-yourself" has a similar meaning, and is used somewhat interchangeably, e.g., page 1, lines 1 to 13 of the present specification.

A central clearing house attends to the mechanics of placing the video production into the correct digital format, and making the video productions ready for webcast viewing by subscribers.

Unlike large-scale commercial broadcasters which must rely on revenue from advertisers, the video webcasting of events employing the technique of this invention opens up many other revenue streams. For example, the revenue may come from subscribers paying a fee to view the archived events, or may come from the institution (school or club) simply providing the video to its alumni as a service. It is also possible for the originating institution to insert advertising into the recordings of the events, i.e., between the wrestling weight classes, or between half-innings of softball or baseball games. The invention opens up worldwide exposure to every athletic event, and because of the low costs of production and webcasting, these may be provided at no charge to the viewer, or for only a minimal fee. While this invention could also be used for major sport, high interest games and meets, its significant benefit will be for sports that do not have television or Internet exposure, and there are thousands of those events every week, from high-school girls' volleyball to small college hockey.

The invention as defined in the claims now being asserted is clearly distinguished over the cited references.

The Li et al. reference concerns a time-shifting multiple channel video service for time-shifting of the regular commercial and public broadcasted programming. Li et al. employs Internet Protocol. The objective of the Li et al. technique is to capture all the local television programming for a seven-day period, e.g., for fifty or so stations or channels that are available to regular on air viewing. The heart of this system seems to be the media content creator 202 which is formed of multiple content creation units, e.g., 302

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(See [0036] to [0039] and Fig. 3). Each of the multiple channels going to the content creation unit 302 receives the video programming that it picks up from the broadcast stations. There nothing here to suggest *self-help* production of a college wrestling meet or any other event. Also, there is no discussion in this reference about how the stored programming is indexed. Fig. 11 of the reference indicates that the viewer has to use an interface and scroll through all the broadcast channels in the up-and-down direction and then scroll to the time of day in the left-to-right direction.

The Broadcast.com reference(s) describe a service which, at one time, used to provide audio (not video) broadcasts of sports events, i.e., baseball games. The production was done by commercial radio stations, and the company took the audio feeds from them. They did not obtain any programming from self-help productions from the athletic departments, and so only some of the games were ever available out of the entire season sports schedule.

The Whitley et al. reference concerns a system for compiling scouting information about scholastic athletes. Whitley captures data about the star athletes at various academic institutions, so that Whitley's system can build a base of information for potential scouts and recruiters and the college or professional levels. Part of this can be video clips obtained from game films and the like. These can be sent on a video tape cassette 414 from the school to the encoding facility 500 (Fig. 4). There is no discussion of how the game film clips are produced, and there is no suggestion that these might be produced in-house as self-help productions. It is apparent that the local coaching staff is only going to send portions of the videos of games featuring the player in question, and not the entire game or event. In the example given in the reference, i.e., Fig. 10L, the player is a quarterback, and so any video clips would be those where the offensive squad was on the field and that individual was playing at the quarterback position. There would be no point in showing the portions of the game where the defensive squad was on the field. Fig. 10P lists only two regular season games and one post season game, so there is

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no suggestion of making video productions of all or a majority of the sports events.

Also, the video clips would be available only to sports recruiters, i.e., coaches and scouts, rather than to fans and alumni. Accordingly, the data are indexed by player, by position (offensive line, defensive back, running back, etc.) and by geographical region, and not by institution.

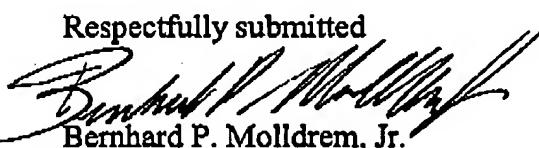
Clearly, these references miss the entire objective of this invention, and would not suggest a self-help system of producing videos of sporting events or other events, and transmitting or sending the video productions to a central clearing house where the events are properly formatted and indexed, and sent via Internet or global computer network to subscribers who might want to see the event. The references do not suggest an economical, self-help technique of producing and webcasting events to make it possible for even minor sports at small schools to place the video productions of their games and meets before a world-wide audience.

For that matter, details such as the control module 30 employed in the invention are completely absent in the references. Accordingly, there is nothing to suggest the subject matter as defined in Claims 7, 10, 11 and 12. The references also fail to suggest having "institutional" subscribers, as defined, e.g., in Claim 9.

Applicant is enclosing Fig. 3, with marking showing the proposed amendment, and asks that this proposed Drawing amendment be approved. No new matter is involved.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully urges that the Claims now being asserted, namely, Claims 1 to 12, clearly define over the prior art, and requests early and favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted



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Enc. Fig. 3

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ANNOTATED

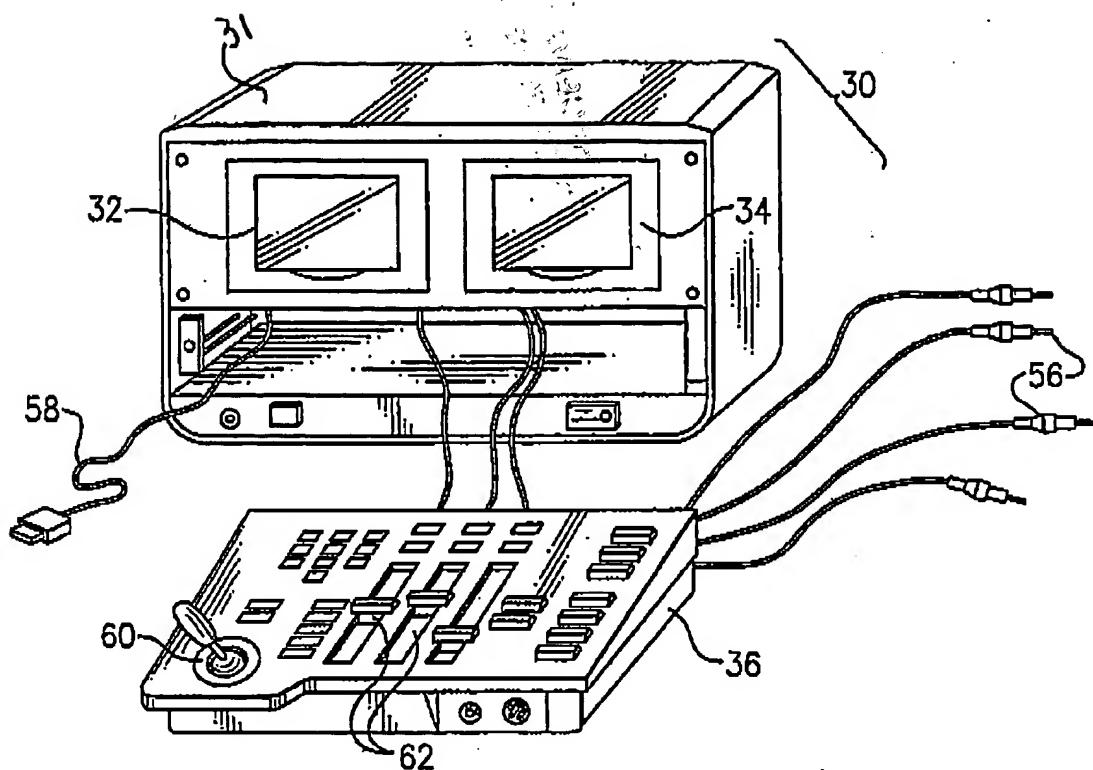


FIG.3